In the market

On scanners

By Shirley W. Walton
Extension Agent

Scanners in the Supermarket

Good news for homemakers

Many of us have observed the use of electronic scanners in some of our variety stores. These scanners are passed over coded symbols on such items as toys, books, etc. We are also seeing them used in large book stores such as college and university bookstores.

Now more than 20% of the 25,000 supermarkets in this country are using coded symbols that can be read by electronic scanners. If you will look at the groceries you purchased this past week, you will find there are symbols on most of the packaging. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, by the end of this year another 3,000 supermarkets are expected to install the scanners.

Some people are objecting to stores dropping prices on the items on shelves. Before you get upset about this, please remember to look on the shelf itself. The prices are still posted on the shelf and we will become more conscious of the price as we pick up the item. Many times we don't look at the item pricing until we have gotten to the check-out counter. The price will also be printed on your cash register receipt.

By eliminating item price marketing, retailers can reduce labor costs by about three-tenths of a precent of sales. For a supermarket with $6,000,000 in yearly sales, this saving would amount to $18,000 per year. Scanners provide the store with data on revenue, movement of products, taxes, cash rereceipts, plus information on food stamps, coupons and personal check usage.

Scanners also record the time of purchase and enables retailers to analyze purchasing trends and schedule workers to be on duty when most customers are shopping.

Scanners also help in shelf stocking, with inventory and other services. This is why scanners are here to stay. The time for us to start worrying about the use of electronic devices in our supermarket is when we ask to speak to our friendly supermarket manager and a robot appears.

Electronic scanners may sound new to some of us, but good supermarket citizenship is an old game. I urge each of us to do our part in our supermarkets to practice good shopping citizenship. When we see someone who has picked up fresh vegetables or fruits and have left them in the detergent section, or laid them over on the canned goods shelf, please be a good citizen and return them to their proper place. If we should see items that should be refrigerated or in the frozen food section that have been mislaid by someone shopping, please call this to the attention of the manager or someone working in the supermarket. It is impossible to go shopping without finding where someone has changed their mind just before they got to the check-out aisle and have mislaid an item. This cost us in the long run.

Some interesting things that I have observed recently have been a container of potato salad in the bath soaps section, a package of frozen broccoli left over on the bread shelf, and I could go on and on. I urge you to be a good citizen in the supermarket and if you see anything like this, please correct it or call it to the attention of the manager.

Supermarket shopping can be a very pleasant experience if we go organized. Each of us knows how items are placed in our supermarket; if we will just take a few minutes and organize our shopping list according to the way we find things in the supermarket aisle by aisle, we will find that it is so much easier to go through quickly and make our purchases.

Whether we are shopping in a supermarket with electronic scanners or whether we are shopping where we still have someone punching the keys on a computerized cash register, we still have food choices to make. In order to make these choices wisely, plan carefully before going to the supermarket. Work with your family and use the **supermarket specials** and make a carefully planned list.

If you have a homemaking question or problem, you may call 352-8244 or write us at P. O. Box 488, Appomattox, Va. 24522.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the many of you who call and write us with requests. It is always a pleasure to hear from you and to help you.

Remember, if you have food preservation problems, you may call our office or one of the Master Preservers that we listed in the **Times-Virginian**.

Have a good week!

RECIPE OF THE WEEK
Pimiento Cheese

½ lb. cheddar cheese
4 oz. pimientos
2 Tablespoons pimiento juice
½ teaspoon sugar
mayonnaise to moisten
Mix as listed and refrigerate.

Local club holds luncheon

The Appomattox Homemakers Club held a luncheon on Tuesday, June 15, 1982, at the Country Fare Restaurant in Appomattox to mark the conclusion of the successful 1981-82 year. Sixteen members and one guest enjoyed the social occasion.

The club will not meet again until September. Members are reminded to check the **Times-Virginian** in September for the date, time, and place of the first meeting of the 1982-83 season.

ASCS Today

By Tom Conrad

June 30, last day to certify spring-seeded crops - Farmers have until June 30 to report the sizes and intended uses of their corn, grain sorghum and soybeans to the ASCS office.

Spring-seeded crops which are not certified by the deadline will be ineligible for program benefits. If a farm has a corn or grain sorghum base but none is planted, a report needs to be made to preserve the base.

ASCS randomly checks farms to verify that the acreage reports are accurate and also provides aerial photographs for farmers to identify their fields. The acreage reports will be used to determine compliance with farm programs and will also serve as a basis for the 1983 program base acres for farms.

To be eligible for price support loans, target prices and other program benefits, farmers who participate in the 1982 program are required to report the actual planted acreage on a field-by-field basis. Farmers who did not sign up for the program could benefit also by certifying their planted acres because the 1983 base acres will be based on the certified 1982 acreage.

Appomattox County farmers who have not certified their spring seeded crops are urged to do so by June 30.

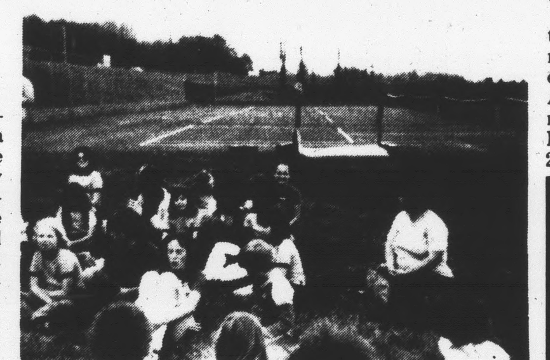
DISASTER COVERAGE - Oats is the only program crop not covered by FCCC's All Risk Crop Insurance. Because of this, oats are covered under the ASCS Disaster Program. A farm must be participating in the Reduced Acreage Program to qualify for low yield assistance. A loss below 60 percent of the farms established yield must be realized in order to be eligible for ASCS disaster coverage.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact the ASCS office. **Disposition of small grain** - Farmers that filed acreage reports for small grain need to report disposition of small grain for other than grain by June 30. For any report not received the small grain will be considered harvested for grain and could possibly result in a failure to fully comply situation for the farm.

This would be a situation where a farm had set-aside land that was in small grain and the small grain needs to be disposed of for other than grain to comply with program regulations. **Tobacco Reports** - Fire, sun, flue tobacco acreage need to be reported to the ASCS office by June 30. Failure to do so will result in a loss of price support.

For those farms that did not grow or lease their tobacco, they need to report history preservation acreage to preserve their allotment. Reports must be made at the ASCS office.

Any Maryland tobacco produced in the county must also be reported by June 30.



GIRL SCOUT TROOP 957 recently held its annual field day at J. J. Fray in Rustburg. Events included the 50-yd dash, discus, shot put, obstacle course, high jump, and softball throw. Ribbons were awarded to the winners. Marcia Clark took top honors.

Spouse abuse meeting slated

A statewide Conference on Spouse Abuse will be held in Blackstone June 28 and 29.

The conference is sponsored by the state Department of Welfare's Spouse Abuse Unit, with support from the Howard University Institute for Urban Affairs Child Abuse and Neglect Resource Center.

Del Martin of San Francisco will be the keynote speaker at the conference. Ms. Martin's book **'Battered Wives** is considered a classic in domestic violence literature.

Workshop topics will include working with abusers, children from violent families, developing a hospital protocol for domestic violence victims, and state domestic violence laws: how does Virginia compare with other states?

The conference is designed for people working in domestic violence, mental health workers, attorneys, court personnel, the medical community, child and adult protective service workers, and groups and individuals interested in developing programs to combat spouse abuse.

Registration for the conference, which will be held at the United Methodist Assembly Center, is $10. Room and board for the entire conference will be an additional $25.

For more information or to register for the Conference on Spouse Abuse, call or write the Spouse Abuse Unit, State Department of Welfare, 8007 Discovery, Richmond 23-288; (804) 281-9081.

Happiness is 4-H

By Frank Sweet
Extension Agent

State 4-H Congress is being held on the Virginia Tech Campus in Blacksburg this week. Over 1200 4-H members from across Virginia are participating in this year's Congress program. The Appomattox delegation left Monday morning of this week and will return on Friday morning. Accompanying the 4-H'ers are Mrs. Shirley Walton, Extension Agent and Miss Pam White, Volunteer Leader. 4-H'ers involved in the 1982 Congress program include: Janet Baker, Donna Baldwin, Mitzi Baldwin, Rose Christian, Darrell Conner, Richard Conner, Steve Cyrus, Jimmy Fillingame, Dale Glover, David Hancock, Jennifer Inge, Connie Krantz, Glen McClenny, Kenneth McClenny, Mike McCoy, Phil Mobley, Terri Nash, Kathy Parsons, Blair Smith, Ruby Smith, Robert Taylor, Laura Walton, Delisa Watkins and Marlene Watkins.

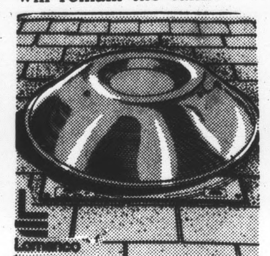
* * *

4-H Camp enrollment has been completed with over 170 Appomattox 4-H'ers planning to attend. An additional 30 4-H'ers will be coming from Lynchburg. Appomattox 4-H'ers will attend camp during the week of July 5-9.

* * *

The 4-H Interstate Exchange trip will take place during the time period from July 19-20. Ten 4-H'ers and several chaperones will participate in the trip to Rock County, Wisconsin. While in Wisconsin, the 4-H'ers will be living in homes with 4-H families. In order to raise money for their trip, the 4-H'ers are seeking donations for a drawing for three country cured hams to be held on Saturday, July 17.

Now is the time to begin making plans for your Five County Fair exhibits. Although the Fair is still 2½ months away, 4-H'ers and adults can begin selecting livestock exhibits, canned goods, crafts, etc. We have a supply of the old Five County Fair Catalogs in the Extension Office if you would like one. There will be a few changes in the new Fair Catalog that will come out in late July, but most of the classes and items to exhibit will remain the same.



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